

Richard Stockton House (Morven)
63 Stockton Street
Princeton
Mercer County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-408

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

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"Morven"
Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey

Owner: Richard Stockton

Date of Erection: 1701-1709

Architect:

Builder: Richard Stockton

Present Condition: Excellent

Number of Stories: Two sections of two stories each -
wing slightly lower than main

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - ~~pitch~~ *gable*

Historical Data:

"Morven" has been the home of the Stocktons since about 1701. Richard Stockton, the Quaker, came to Princeton in 1696. He purchased land from Penn in 1701 and built the main part of the house between 1701-1709. Before that time he lived in a stone house still standing on Edgemoor Street. The five hundred acres of Richard Stockton descended to John, the father of the signer. The name "Morven" dates from the time of Richard Stockton. His wife was Annis Boudinot and she got the name from the Ossian poems. There was no name attached

8/17/30-1731

to the house prior to her occupancy in 1757. The house has been enlarged by later generations, but has retained its colonial character. There are still traces of a brick slave quarters that stood in the rear. There are no traces of the garden that Annis Stockton planted and for which Richard in 1776 sent bulbs and plants from England.

The house has entertained many notables. In 1749 John and David Brainard were entertained here. In 1776 when the British occupied Princeton for a short time, Cornwallis made his headquarters at the Stockton House. Perhaps the most brilliant event that ever took place in the house occurred in 1783 when the Continental Congress met at Princeton during that summer and autumn. Elias Boudinot, president of the congress, made "Morven" his official residence. He was a brother of Annis Stockton. On July 4, 1783 a state dinner was held in the house during which the entire congress was present. It is said that Thomas Jefferson got his inspiration for Monticello from the Stockton House.

Bibliography:

Collins, V. L. Princeton Past and Present
Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1931

Walter C. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

NOTE :- Permission to measure and photograph this house was not obtainable, hence the above memoranda comprises our only survey of this important item.

Addendum to
Morven (Richard Stockton House)
55 Stockton Street
Princeton
Mercer County
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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127